



X-MEN GOLD™

MARVEL

008

**GUGGENHEIM
LASHLEY
MARTIN**



X-MEN

GOLD

GENETICALLY GIFTED WITH UNCANNY ABILITIES, MUTANTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE NEXT STAGE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION. WHILE THE WORLD HATES AND FEARS THEM, KITTY PRYDE HAS REFORMED THE TEAM OF MUTANT HEROES KNOWN AS THE X-MEN TO USE THEIR POWERS FOR GOOD AND SPREAD A POSITIVE IMAGE OF MUTANTKIND.

PREVIOUSLY IN *X-MEN GOLD*...

TRAPPED IN A DARKFORCE BUBBLE THAT HAS ENVELOPED MANHATTAN, THE X-MEN DO THEIR BEST TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK CITY – A CHALLENGE WHEN PEOPLE ARE JUST AS SCARED OF MUTANTS AS THEY ARE THE DEMONS. MEANWHILE, KITTY HAS ORDERED THE STUDENTS TO STAY INSIDE THE MANSION TO KEEP THEM SAFE – A GOOD PLAN IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE MUTANT SERIAL KILLER PROWLING THE HALLS...

SECRET EMPIRE

PART 2

WRITER **MARC GUGGENHEIM**

ARTIST **KEN LASHLEY**

COLORISTS **FRANK MARTIN** WITH **ANDREW CROSSLEY**

LETTERER **VC's CORY PETIT**

COVER ARTISTS **ARDIAN SYAF**, **JAY LEISTEN** & **DAVID CURIEL**

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
JAY BOWEN &
ANTHONY GAMBINO

ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS ROBINSON

EDITOR
DANIEL KETCHUM

X-MEN GROUP EDITOR
MARK PANICCIA

EDITOR IN CHIEF
AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
JOE QUESADA

PRESIDENT
DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
ALAN FINE

X-MEN CREATED BY **STAN LEE** & **JACK KIRBY**



KITTY PRYDE



STORM
ORORO MUNROE



NIGHTCRAWLER
KURT WAGNER



COLOSSUS
PIOTR RASPUTIN

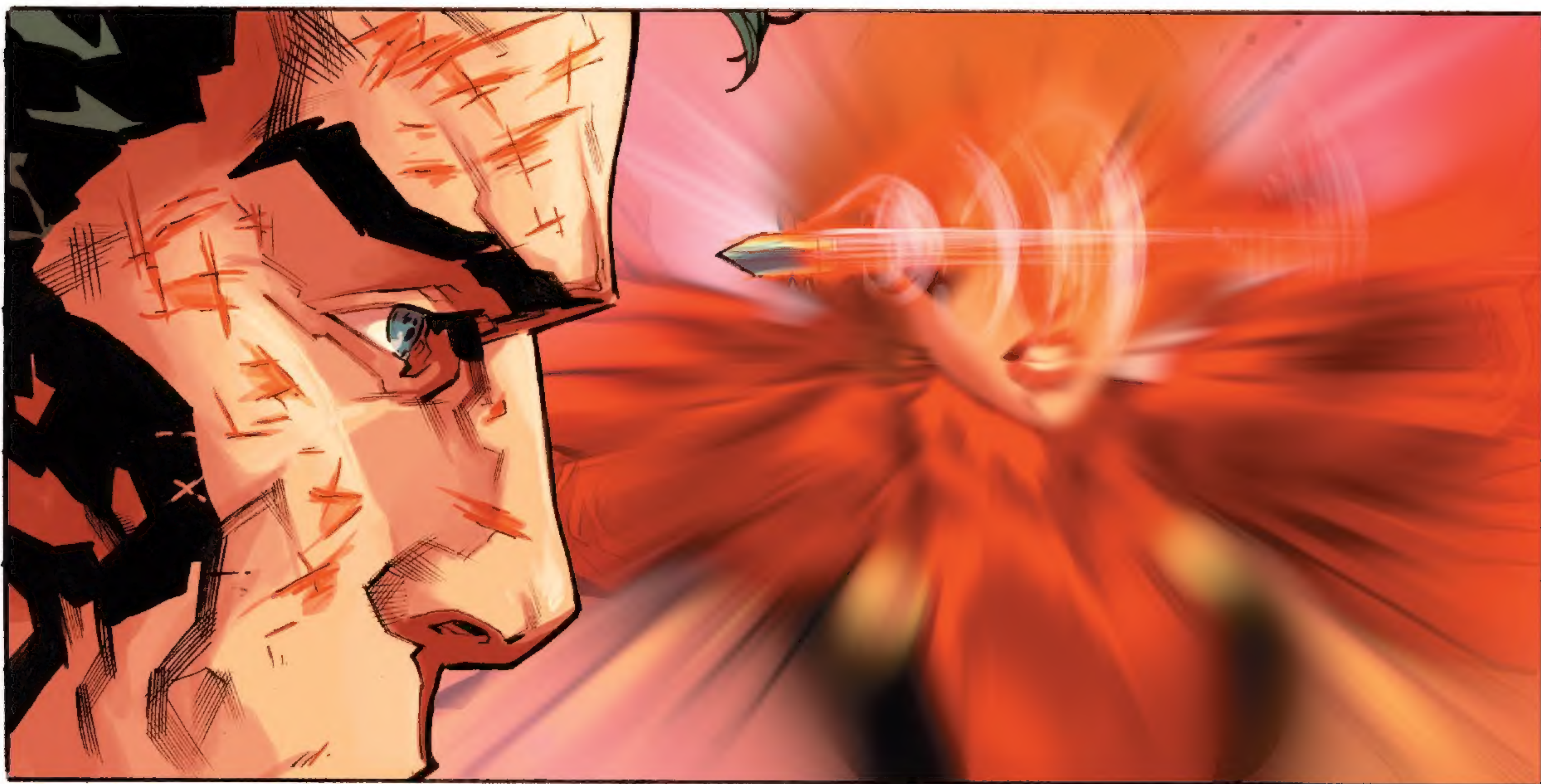


PRESTIGE
RACHEL GREY

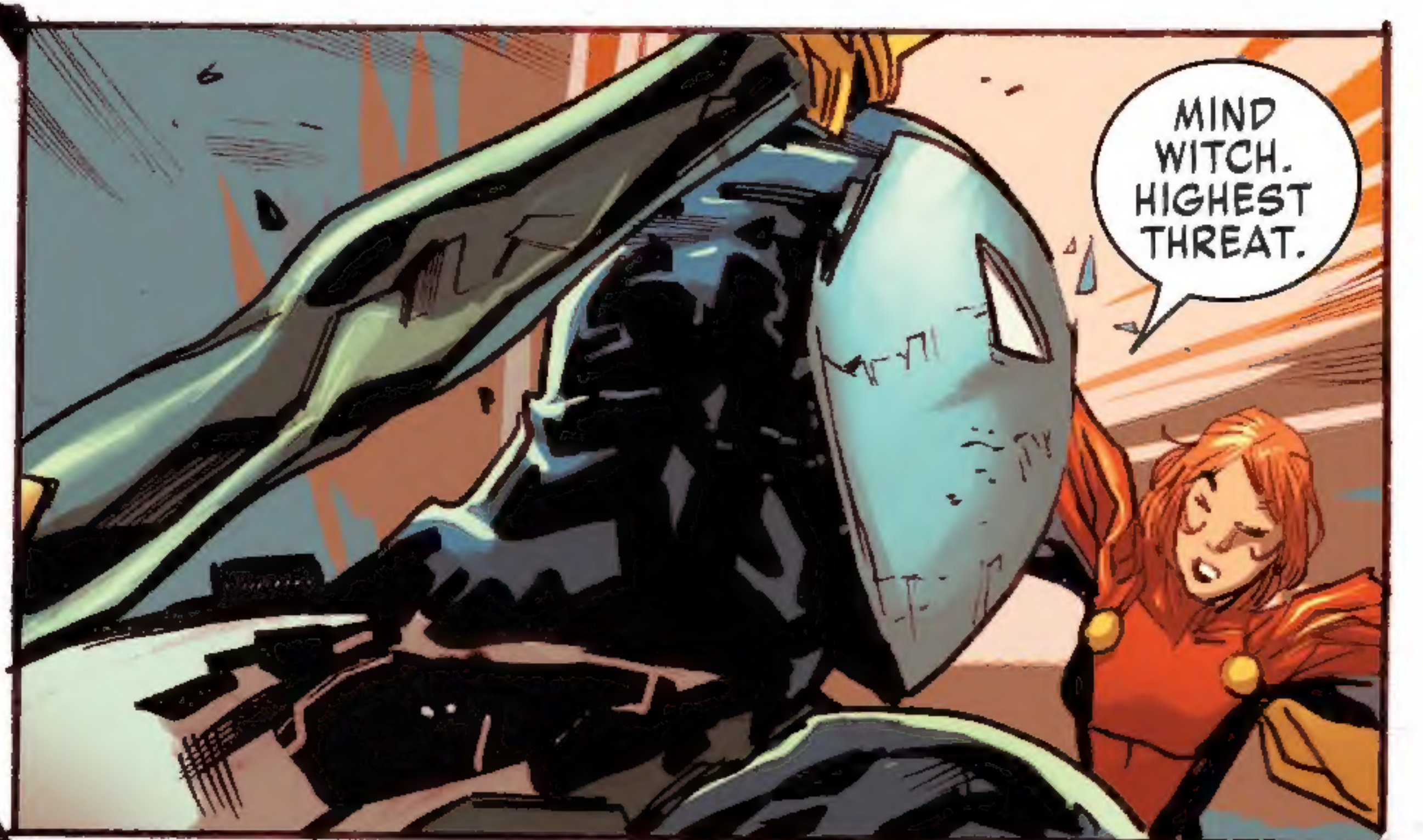


OLD MAN LOGAN

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NO, I MEAN
A REALLY BIG
PROBLEM.

THERE ARE
ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES
HERE TO TAKE DOWN
THE MANSION AND KILL
EVERYONE INSIDE.



NO
PROBLEM...



...I'M NOT
REALLY DOING
ANYTHING AT
THE MOMENT.



GET
RACHEL
UP.



WHAT'S
HAPPENING?



I CANNOT
DISARM THEM.
BUT THEY'RE ON
AN ELECTRONIC
TRIGGER.

"ELECTRONIC,"
AS IN YOU CAN
PHASE THROUGH
AND DISABLE
IT.



RACHEL'S UNCONSCIOUS, YOU CAN'T ARMOR UP AND, APPARENTLY, I'VE GOT TO GO DEFUSE A BOMB.

MULTIPLE BOMBS, ACTUALLY. ROOM'S FILLED WITH 'EM.

WHICH ROOM, SANTO?



"DANGER ROOM."



GIMME A SECOND...



UH-OH.



"UH" AND "OH" ARE THE EXACT TWO WORDS YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR OUT OF THE MOUTH OF SOMEONE TRYING TO DISARM A BOMB.

I KNOW.

WHEN YOU SAID WE HAVE A "BIG" PROBLEM, YOU MIGHT'VE UNDERSOLD IT, SANTO.

"WE HAVE A
MASSIVE
PROBLEM."

GHHG--

DEMON!

THIS IS
OUR CITY,
FREAK!

DEMON!
KILL
IT!

LET HIM
GO...

...OR
YOU'LL
ANSWER
TO ME.

KRA
KOOM

AND
HER.





...WHY
ISN'T YOUR POWER
DISRUPTING THE BOMBS'
ELECTRONICS?

BECAUSE THEY
DON'T HAVE ANY
ELECTRONICS.



THE HOUSING
IS ALL METAL AND
PLASTIC, BUT THE
INNARDS ARE
CELLULAR--LITERAL
BIOTECH.

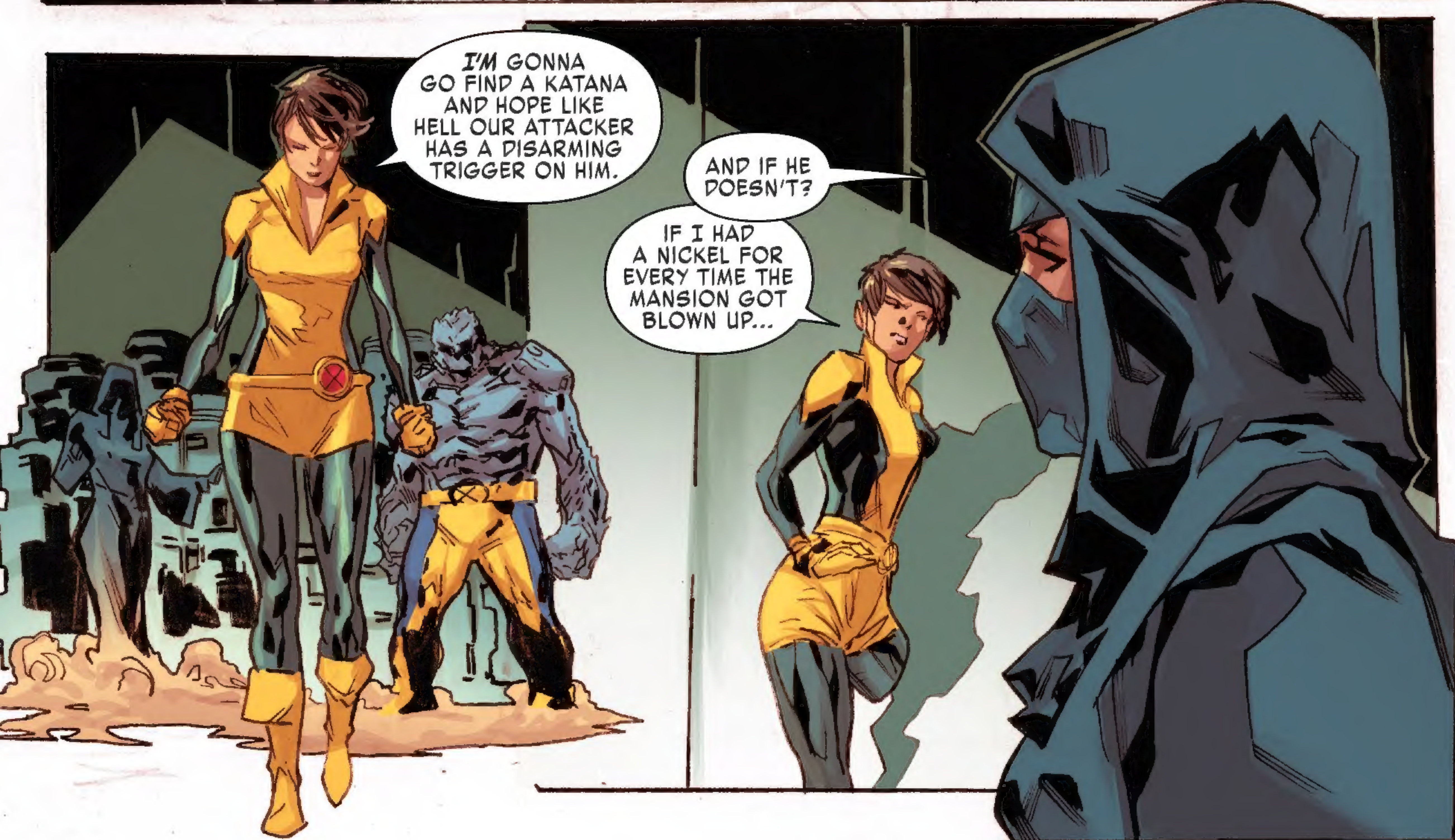
THE
ELECTRICITY
IT GENERATES IS
BIOLOGICAL, NOT
TECHNOLOGICAL.

I READ
A PAPER ON IT.
APPARENTLY, STARK
AND DARPA BROUGHT
IT TO PROTOTYPE
A YEAR AGO.



WHAT'RE
WE GONNA
DO?

YOU AND DUST
ARE GONNA HELP
PETER EVACUATE
THE MANSION.



I'M GONNA
GO FIND A KATANA
AND HOPE LIKE
HELL OUR ATTACKER
HAS A DISARMING
TRIGGER ON HIM.

AND IF HE
DOESN'T?

IF I HAD
A NICKEL FOR
EVERY TIME THE
MANSION GOT
BLOWN UP...

"...ALL I ASK IS THAT
YOU MAKE SURE NOBODY
IS INSIDE IF IT HAPPENS."



WHERE'S
KATYA?



STILL INSIDE.
SHE'S GOING
TO FACE OUR
ATTACKER.



WHERE ARE YOU
GOING?

TO HELP.
KEEP EVERYONE
OUT HERE SAFE.



YOUR
POWERS DON'T
WORK, MAN.

TO GO
BACK IN THERE
UNPROTECTED,
YOU'VE GOTTA
BE CRAZY.

I
AM NOT
CRAZY...

"...I AM RUSSIAN."

RUSSIA, NEMCHINOVKA.
OUTSIDE MOSCOW.

THEY'RE
LATE.*

*TRANSLATED
FROM RUSSIAN.

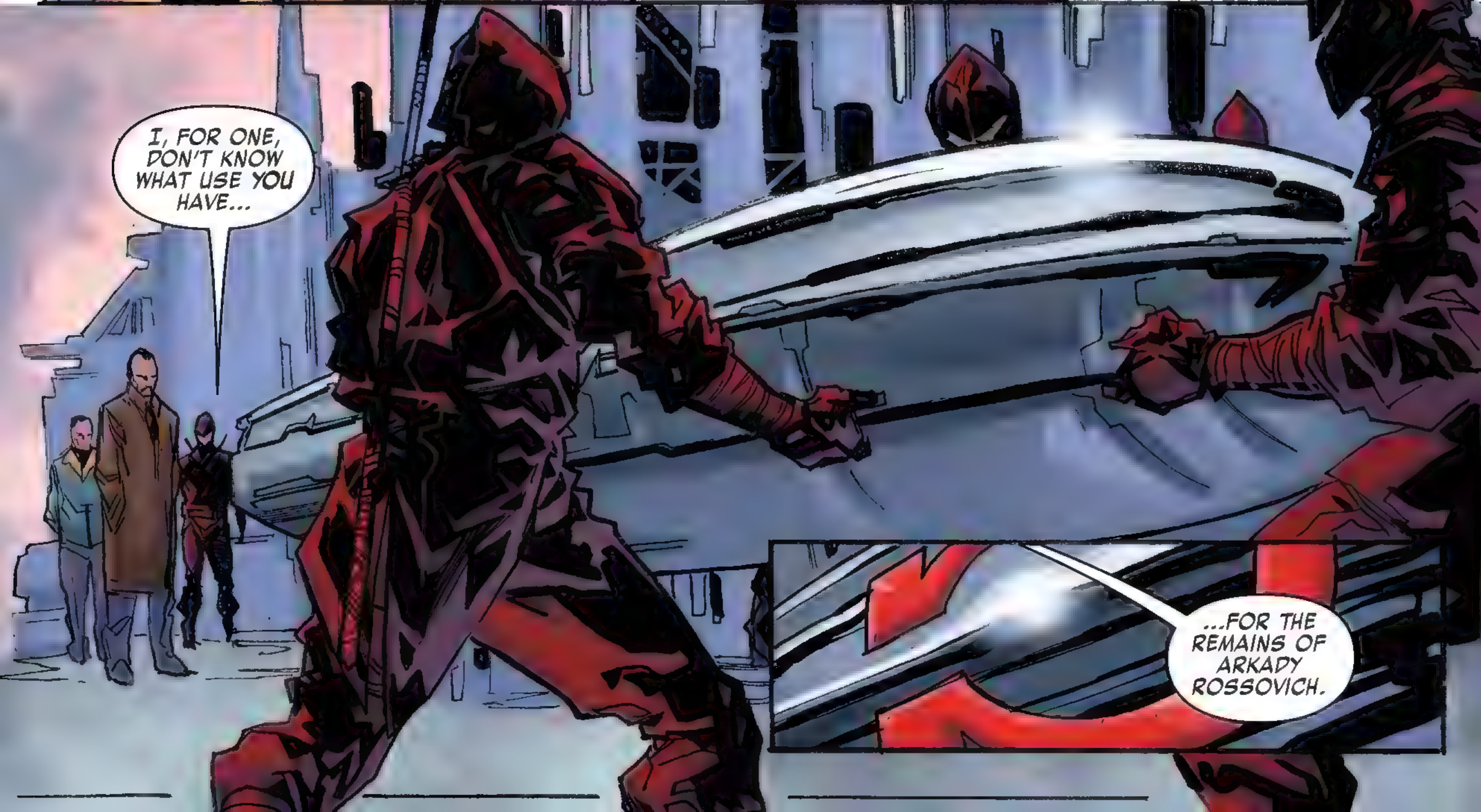
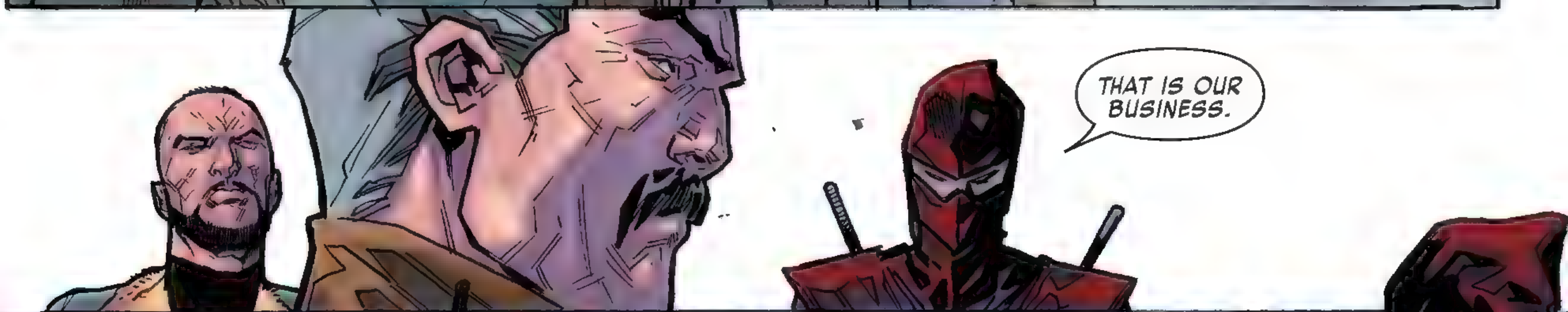
NO,
ANATOLY,
THEY ARE
NOT.

IN FACT,
THEY HAVE
BEEN HERE
FOR A WHILE
NOW.

BOZHE
MOI, DO I HATE
NINJAS...

GOOD
EVENING. WE
SPEAK ENGLISH,
YES?

RUSSIAN
WILL DO.



THE ARMORY HAS ENOUGH
WEAPONRY TO INVADE A
LARGE COUNTRY, OR EVEN
A SMALL PLANET.

SHOULD'VE BROUGHT
A REALLY BIG GUN TO
THIS GUN FIGHT.

BUT I DON'T
DO GUNS.

I'M A
NINJA.

A
SHADOWCAT.

AND I'M
PISSED.

RUN.

BUT
YOU--

--WILL HAVE
A MUCH EASIER
TIME IF I'M NOT
WORRIED ABOUT
YOU.

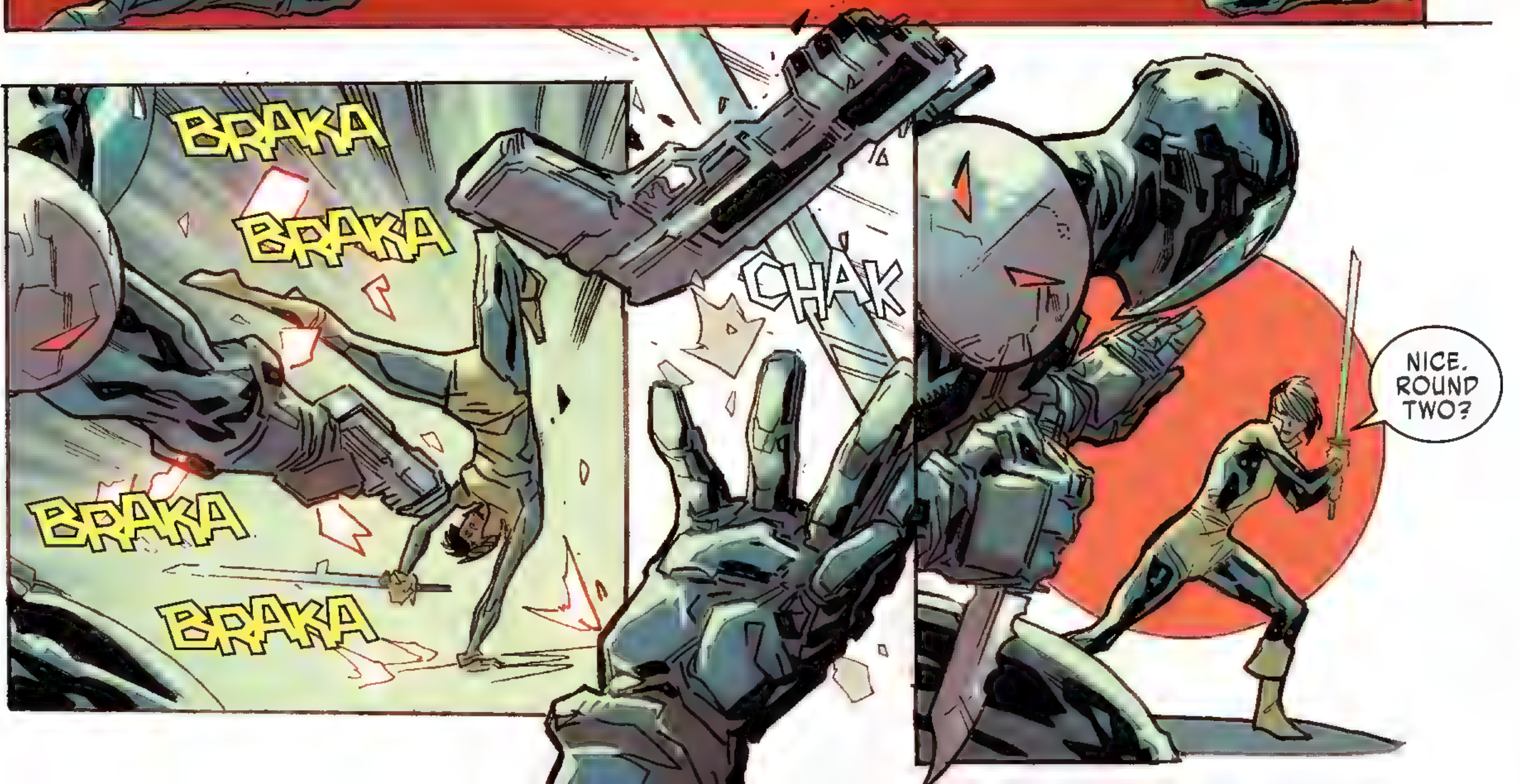
RUN!
I'VE SO GOT
THIS.

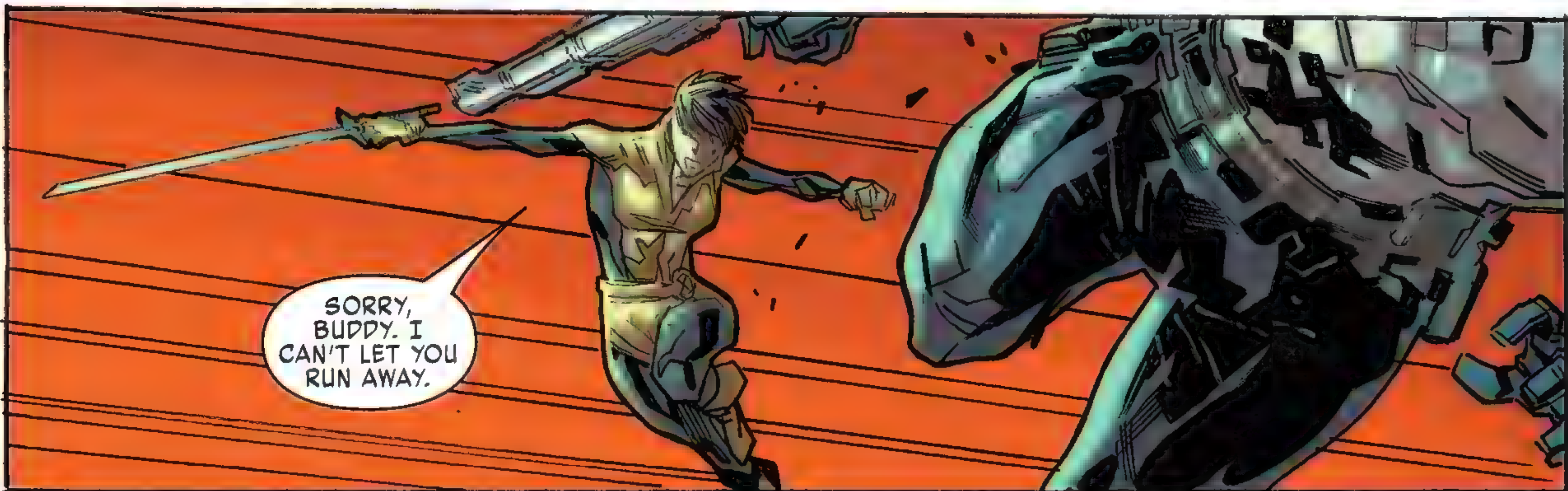
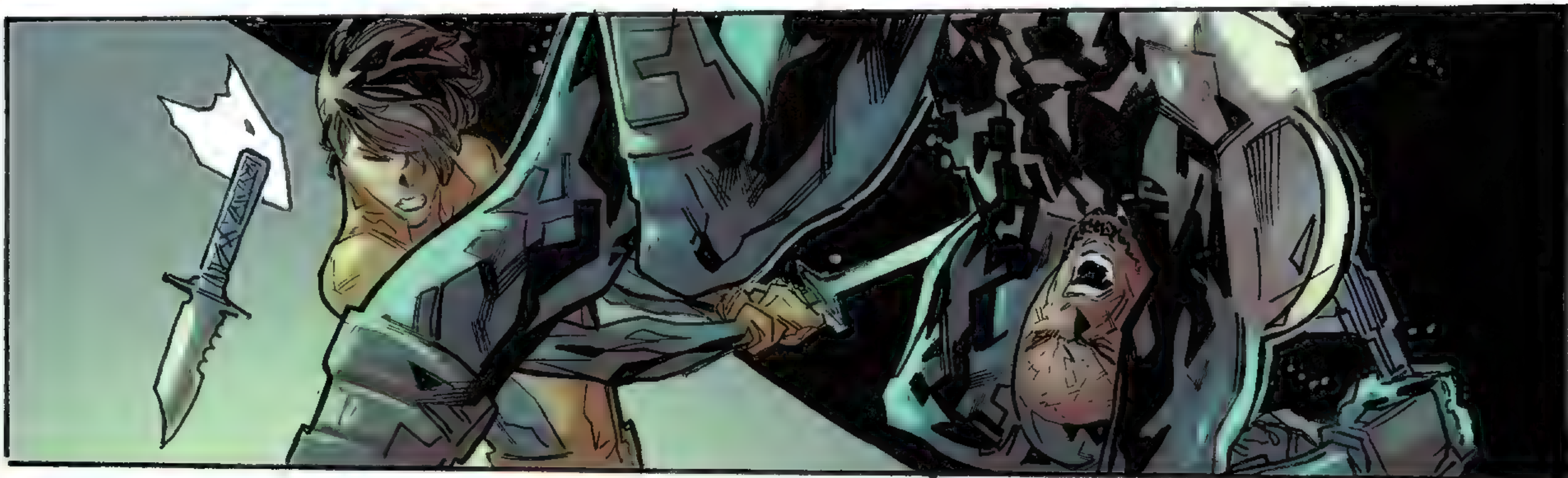
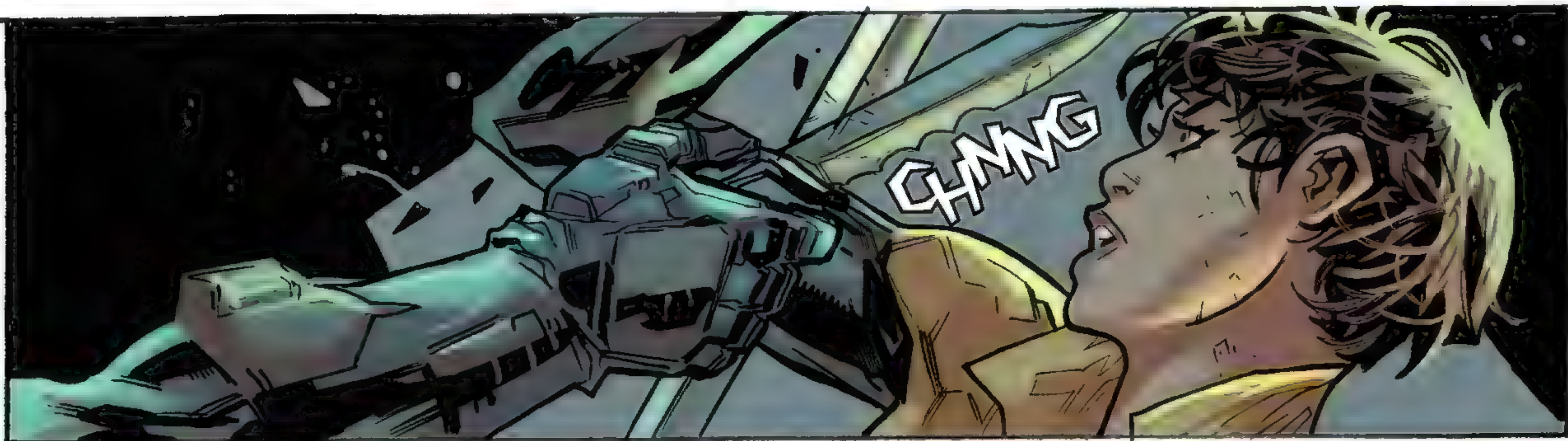
I JUST
HAD TO
JUNK IT--

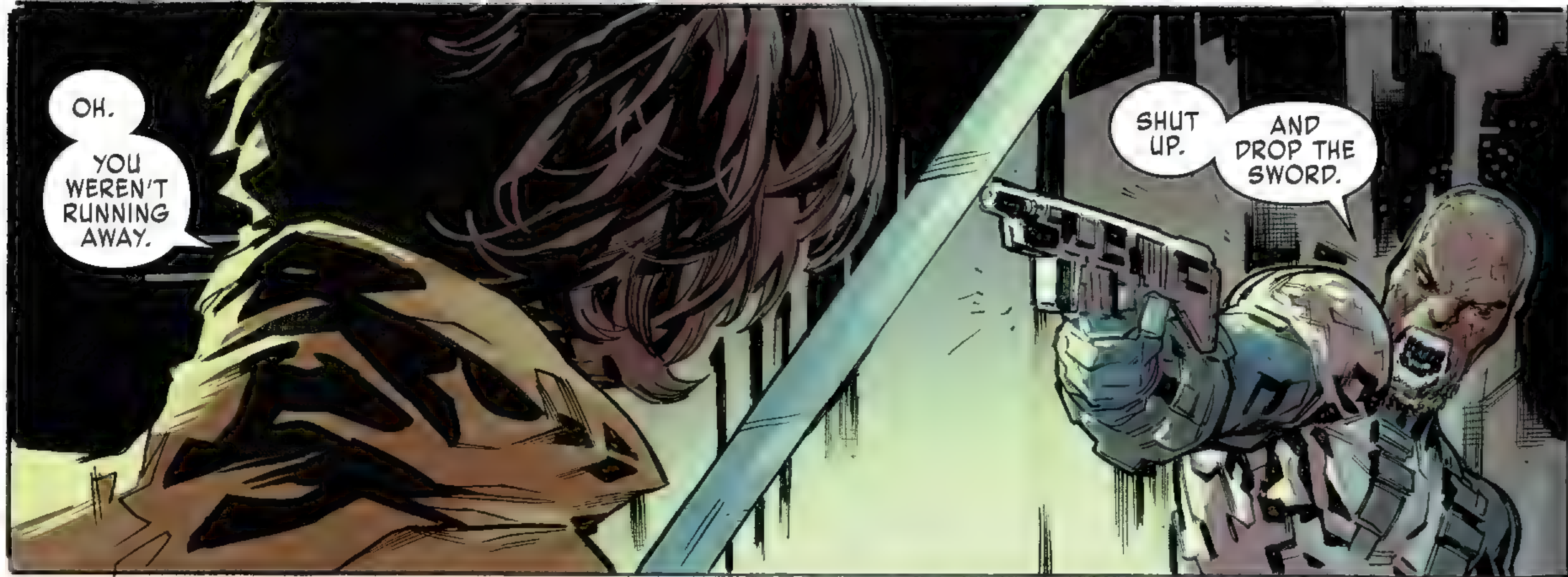
SUCKER TAGGED
ME WITH A POWER
DAMPENER.

FULL OF
SURPRISES
THIS GUY.

OH
WELL.



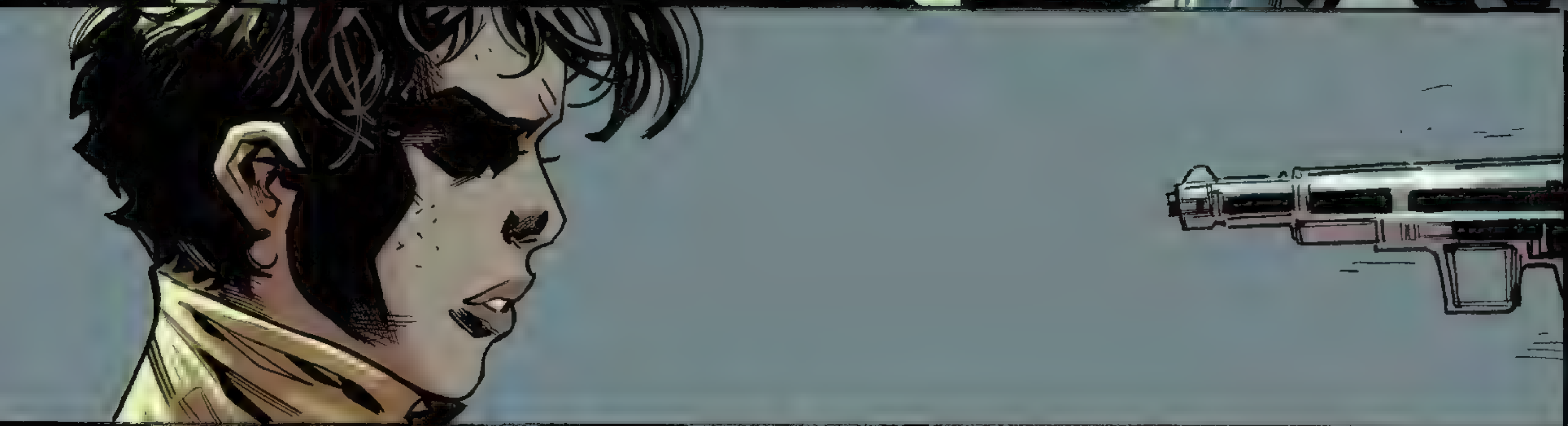




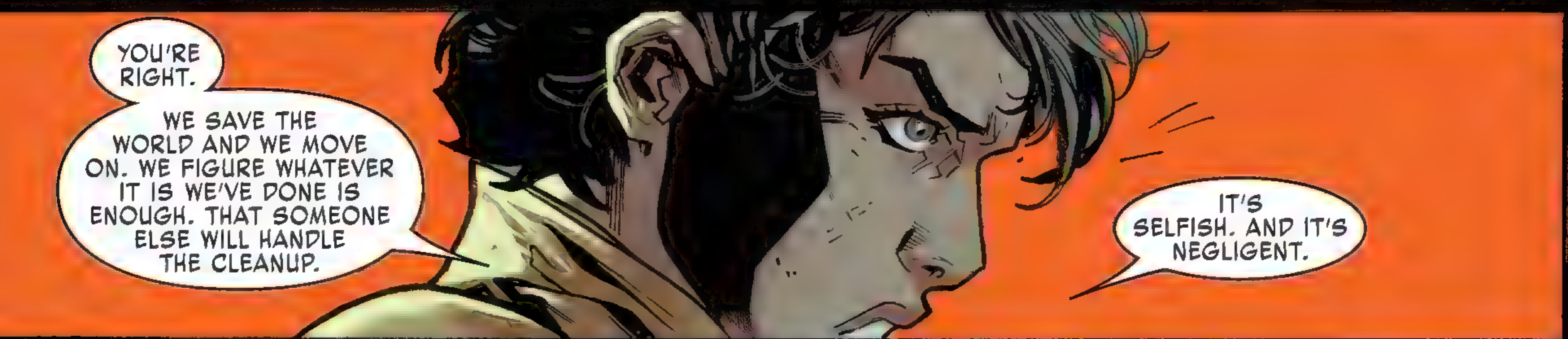


HOW MANY
"EVIL MUTANTS"
HAVE YOU
FOUGHT?

HOW MANY
TIMES HAVE YOU
SAVED THE WORLD, BUT
NEVER BOTHERED TO ASK
ABOUT THE PEOPLE
LOST TO COLLATERAL
DAMAGE?



TOO MANY
TIMES.



YOU'RE
RIGHT.

WE SAVE THE
WORLD AND WE MOVE
ON. WE FIGURE WHATEVER
IT IS WE'VE DONE IS
ENOUGH. THAT SOMEONE
ELSE WILL HANDLE
THE CLEANUP.

IT'S
SELFISH. AND IT'S
NEGLIGENT.



BUT
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING IS
PREMEDITATED.
DELIBERATE.

WHICH
MAKES YOU
MORE EVIL THAN
I'LL EVER BE.

IF YOU'RE
GOOD WITH THAT...
IF YOU THINK YOUR
WIFE AND SON WOULD
BE GOOD WITH
THAT...

...PULL THE
TRIGGER.



BANG



KATYA!



PETER!

NOT FOR
NOTHING,
BUT NEXT
TIME...

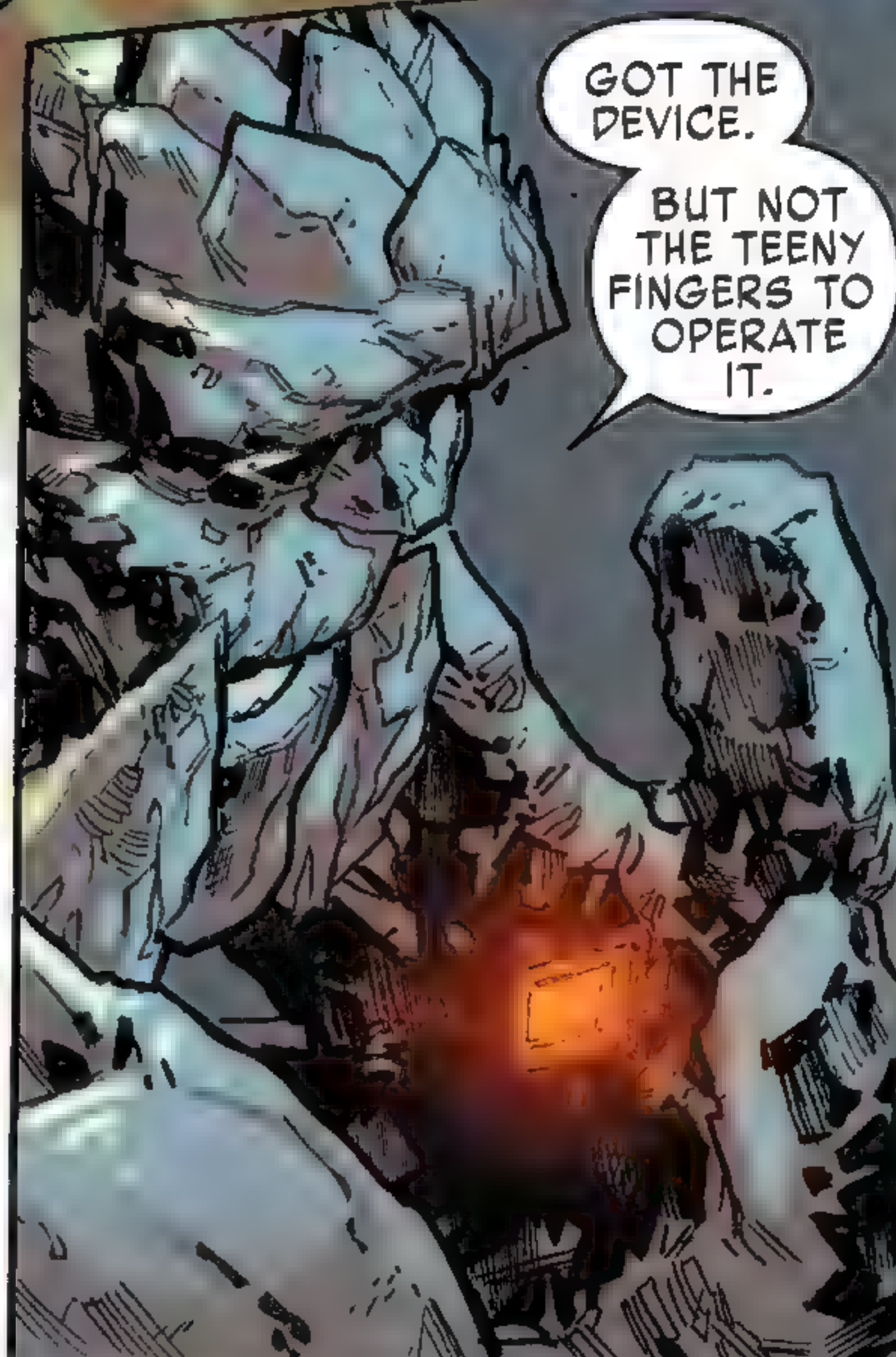


...LET THE GUY MADE OF ROCKS DIVE IN FRONT OF THE BULLET.



SANTO, LOOK FOR OUR PAL'S REMOTE TRIGGER.

SORRY. I WAS JUST TRYING TO IMPRESS KATYA.



GOT THE DEVICE.
BUT NOT THE TEENY FINGERS TO OPERATE IT.



GOT IT.
DOES THAT MEAN WE'RE NOT BLOWING UP?
WE'RE NOT BLOWING UP.

COOL.

DAYS LATER.
MANHATTAN
HAS BEEN
FREED FROM
THE DARK FORCE
DIMENSION.

THANK YOU,
DETECTIVE
MAHONEY...

NO NEED.
YOU GUYS DID
THE HEAVY LIFTING
HERE.

PER
USUAL.

MS.
PRYDE?

MY NAME IS
ZULLY GARCIA. I'M A
CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER IN
CONGRESSMAN ZELMAN'S
OFFICE.

CONGRESSMAN
AS IN...CONGRESS?

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES,
YES.

THIS IS AN
INVITATION FROM
CONGRESSMAN
ZELMAN TO TESTIFY
BEFORE HIS
SUBCOMMITTEE
CONCERNING
H.R. 372.

WHAT'S
H.R. 372?

IT'S A
BILL CURRENTLY
PENDING IN
THE HOUSE.

IT'S CALLED
THE "MUTANT
DEPORTATION
ACT."

NEXT: WASHINGTON, D.C.

X-MEN

MARC GUGGENHEIM WRITER
CHRIS ROBINSON ASSISTANT EDITOR
DANIEL KETCHUM EDITOR
MARK PANICCIA X-MEN GROUP EDITOR

THE GOLD STANDARD

Finally! I have been an X-fan for many, many years. Been through all the highs and lows right along with the Merry Mutants. But it seems like they haven't been merry for a while now. They have had so much struggle and one crisis after another constantly threatening their wellbeing and existence. But they made it. Through hell and high water, they made it. And the other side is so sunny! Back to being heroes! Back to saving others, instead of themselves. They're back to what they were made for. They're back to having some fun.

The first issue was exceptional. Marc just gets these characters. You can tell right away. He has their voices down. Very excited to see where he takes these guys. Thanks for bringing them back from the brink! New adventures ahead, full steam! I got on the train early and am here to stay.

Travis Newman
RD, AB, Canada

Thank you, Travis! That means the world. At its core, GOLD is an X-Men book written by an X-Men fan for X-Men fans. Things are only going to get crazier from here on out, but we're never going to lose sight of our mission statement, which is to tell fun stories about heroes trying to save a world that hates and fears them, just like Uncle Chris taught. Thanks for reading and for writing in.

Hello Creative X-team,

Great job with the first issue, I'm already invested and looking forward to seeing what's to come for this team and the school. (Especially with the students. I love the X-kids. The ACADEMY X students are my favorites.)

Question: When the X-Men moved to San Francisco there were three characters that stood out to me as those who fully embraced the city; Pixie, Dazzler, and Northstar. Among all the inhabitants of Xavier's who do you think will fit into NYC the most?

Proud to be Mutant,
Joshua
Queens, NY

First and foremost...Queens! So cool. I was born in Jamaica, my grandparents lived in Flushing, and that's where my father still has his store. Love me some Queens. You asked a great question. In my head, I imagine Anole really digging New York, but you mentioning Dazzler made me think of all the clubs and venues she's enjoyed performing at over the years. I'd imagine her to be a New York state of mind as well.

Marc and Company,

Being a huge EXCALIBUR fan, this book was a "no-brainer" for me to get on board. Some of my favorite characters are Kitty Pryde (I loved the "Shadowcat" name personally), Rachel (Prestige) and Kurt (Nightcrawler). Since it's going back to basics, I'm really hoping to see the evolution of their powers and uses of them because that's what always makes these X-Books so fun to read (Note: Pokemon is huge for a reason). So here's hoping for more creative Phasing, TP-TKing and Teleporting from my favorite mutants.

Until next time...

Make Mine Marvel,
Kanit E. Wongyai

If it's evolution -- or de-evolution -- you ask for, it's evolution and de-evolution you shall receive! As you can see, we've already started with Rachel and Peter. The nature of the X-Men is change and now that we've laid the foundation and set up the chess pieces, it's time to start playing around. You've been warned.

Congrats on an amazing 1st issue, I have been reading the X-Men since the 80's, but in the 2000's the stories started to lose me. This GOLD has brought me back. I'm hoping BLUE is just as good, I can't wait to read this twice a month. Thank you for this series, great job can't wait for issue #2.

P.S. Thank you for including Wolverine or Old Man Logan, he has always been my favorite.

Thanks for reading. And I can assure you that BLUE is just as good...if not better. (That Cul-len Bunn may have a name that sounds like an '80s hairstyle, but the dude can write.) But you didn't sign your name to your letter! Now, in my paranoia, I'm thinking your letter was written by Mark or Chris in an effort to make me feel good. Oh, the burden of being a neurotic writer...

Well, we've reached the bottom of another letters page. Next issue is something of a departure: A self-contained story focused primarily on...soap opera. Plus, the return of two -- count 'em, two -- fan favorites who haven't been seen in quite some time, it's gonna be a blast.

Best,

Marc Guggenheim
Air France Flight 66 (Paris to Los Angeles)

HOUSE OF X

Secret Empire has started and if you're reading X-MEN BLUE and X-MEN GOLD then you'll see that X is being represented in this most controversial event.

These tie-ins will have surprising developments that will impact both futures of Blue and Gold. Which is, I think, the most successful way to participate in something as large as this: by both tapping into what's happening in the world of your characters in the event and simultaneously providing plot threads that will impact the book's larger storyline. It's not an easy task, but when you have skilled writers like Cullen Bunn and Marc Guggenheim, they make it look effortless.

With X-MEN BLUE, we're exploring the role of the O5 as a resistance force in the mutant territory of New Tian and in X-MEN GOLD, we see how our cast is impacted by their new home base of Manhattan being encased in a dome made up of the Darkforce Dimension. Not all of our (your, dear reader, and ours, as editors) books tie into this event as it is a monumental task for both sides of the desk, but we certainly can't miss the opportunity to acknowledge the role of mutants in our current line-wide blockbuster. It would be a shame if we didn't take advantage of tapping into the world outside the X-Men's window.

To stay up-to-date on all of our SECRET EMPIRE tie-ins and otherwise, here's this week's checklist:

✓ X-MEN GOLD:

By Marc Guggenheim and R.B. Silva. Kitty Pryde takes charge and leads a new team into a heroic age!
Issue #8!

✓ X-MEN BLUE:

By Cullen Bunn and Cory Smith. The time-displaced original five join their greatest enemy, Magneto. Evil mutants, you're toast!
Issue #8!
SECRET EMPIRE tie-in

✓ WEAPON X:

By Greg Pak and Greg Land. The Weapon X program is back, but this time they are building weapons of mutant destruction. Old Man Logan, Sabretooth and a team of stealthy killers take the bloody battle back to them.
Issue #5 on sale now!

✓ ALL-NEW WOLVERINE:

By Tom Taylor and Leonard Kirk. A virus from another world threatens to wipe out mankind. Kicking off an epic tale that will take Laura Kinney to the stars.
Issue #22 on sale now!

✓ GENERATION X:

By Christina Strain and Amilcar Pinna. Jubilee and a band of mutant misfits in the new Xavier Institute. What could go wrong? EVERYTHING!
Issue #4 on sale now!

✓ JEAN GREY:

By Dennis Hopeless and Victor Ibáñez. She's the leader of X-MEN BLUE, but what does she do in her spare time? What would you do if you had a premonition of the Phoenix Force returning?
Issue #4 on sale now!

✓ CABLE:

By James Robinson and Carlos Pacheco. A new villain is traveling through time to assemble a doomsday weapon. Cable's most dangerous mission ever!
Issue #2 on sale now!

✓ ICEMAN:

By Sina Grace and Alessandro Vitti. The coolest hero on the planet, Bobby Drake the elder, in super-hero solo adventures.
Issue #2 on sale now!

✓ OLD MAN LOGAN:

By Ed Brisson and Mike Deodato Jr. The Maestro! Old Man Logan! Deodato! 'Nuff said!
Issue 26 on sale now!

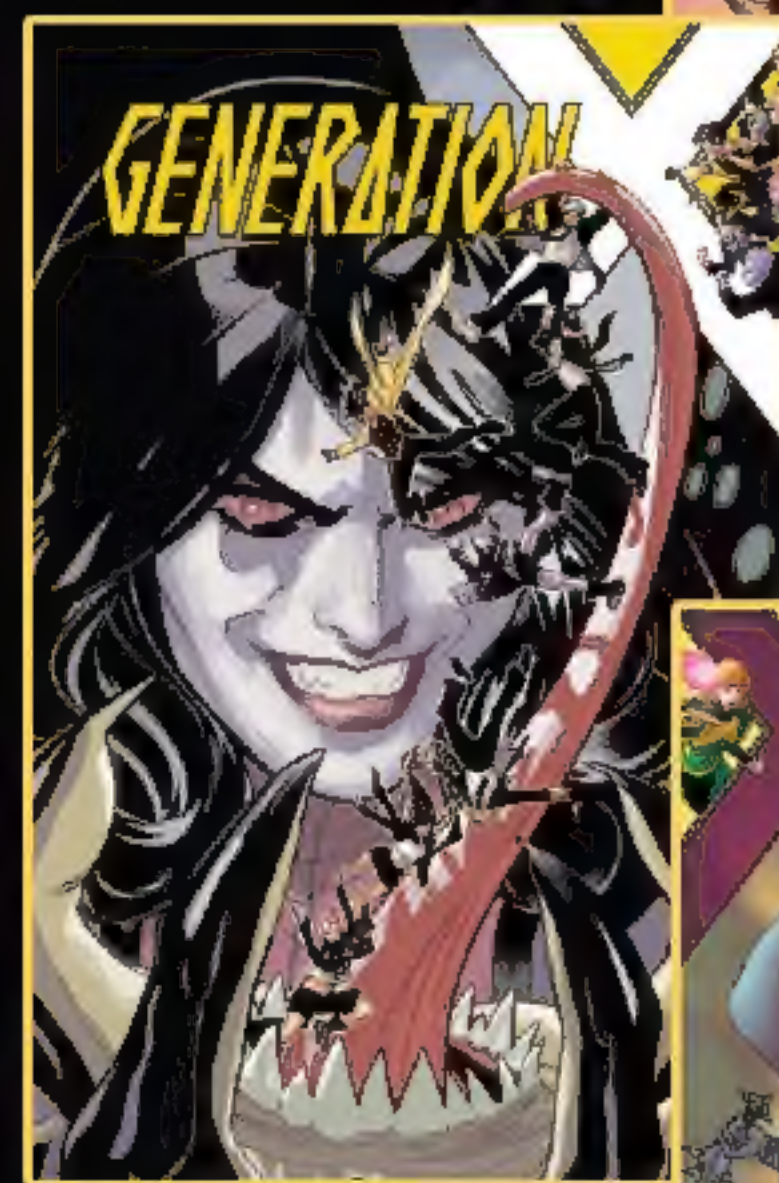
✗ ASTONISHING X-MEN:

By Charles Soule and a murderers' row of chart-topping and up-and-coming artists. Fan-favorite characters battle one of the X-Men's most dangerous foes!
Issue #1!

Make sure to let us know your thoughts. You can email us at officex@marvel.com (add "OKAY TO PRINT" in the subject line). And don't forget about #XMENMONDAY on Twitter, where I'll post some tidbit from one or more of the books and address your questions. I can't guarantee an answer for everybody, but I'll do my darndest!



Mark Paniccia
Senior Editor
MARVEL COMICS
@MARKPANICCIA



X-MEN

GOLD

X-MEN GOLD #9 IN TWO WEEKS



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
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WEAPON X #6
NEXT WEEK



ICEMAN #3
NEXT WEEK



JEAN GREY #5
IN THREE WEEKS



